

Work too scarce for veteran Santa

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Charlotte.

While Eastland Mall general manager Kevin McCluskey, said there is validity to have an African American Santa at the mall, the corporation that owns Eastland contracts with IPI

Inc., a national company that provides malls with Santa and the Easter Bunny.

McCluskey said the company told him that an African American Santa would be available next year. "We were hoping that his year we would have the ability to offer another option,"

he said.

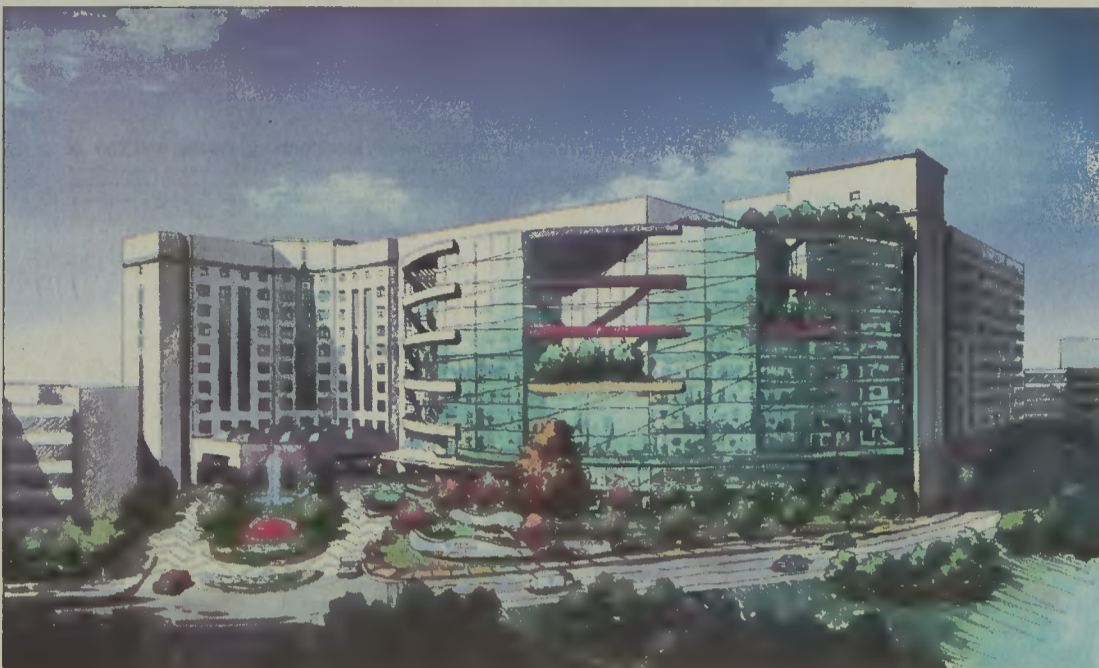
When asked if the mall tried to hire an independent African American Santa, McCluskey said for "house-keeping" reasons the mall doesn't do business with someone locally.

"It's more cost effective to work with one company," he

said.

But, with Christmas a week away, Worth is still smarting from what he calls racism by shopping centers.

"If we can't enjoy the holidays and have peace and happiness, what can we enjoy?" he said.



CAROLINAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Carolinas HealthCare System has announced plans to build the 11-story, \$85 million Levine Children's Hospital. The facility would be funded in part by a \$10 million gift from Family Dollar Stores founder Leon Levine.

Proposed hospital dedicated children's health

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retail chain. "The existing Children's Hospital has done an outstanding job caring for the children of our region and provides a solid foundation upon which to build an even stronger institution."

Plans for the hospital emphasize family-oriented care that involves them to play a vital role in prevention, diagnosis, and healing. "A new facility dedicated

solely to children and their families is an important step in this organization's ability to meet the needs of a growing population and to create a physical environment that is commensurate with the high standard of care already found at our Children's Hospital," said Michael C. Tarwater, president and CEO of Carolinas HealthCare.

Dr. C. Scott McLanahan, a

pediatric neurosurgeon, was pleased with the prospects of a new facility.

"Many of us who provide care for children have seen the need for expanded pediatric services," he said. "Levine Children's Hospital will provide a very special place for sick and injured youngsters and their families, and I'm delighted that we have now reached this point."

Added Dr. Robert Attorri, a Charlotte pediatric surgeon and proponent of Levine Children's Hospital: "A dedicated facility will also improve our ability to attract additional talented professionals in pediatric care and research, not only to the hospital, but also to the region. It will raise the bar for pediatric care and enhance the quality of life throughout our community."



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